

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 10-24 are active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to copolymers of ethylenically unsaturated acid-group-containing monomers and a hydrophobic monomer component for the prevention of the deposition of inorganic and organic deposits.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner states that *the claims of the application contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of skill in the art that the present inventors, at the time of filing of the present application, did not have possession of the claimed invention.* Applicants do not concur with this conclusion by the Examiner. To the contrary the specification at the bottom of page clearly broadly describes water soluble copolymers that are formed monoethylenically unsaturated, acid group containing monomers (a) and at least one hydrophobic, copolymerizable, unsaturated double bond containing hydrocarbon components taken from the groups of acyclic, monocyclic and/or bicyclic terpene and unsaturated, open chain or cyclic, normal or isomeric hydrocarbons (b). Applicants during prosecution of the application limited the scope of the claims to a combination of monomers in which the group (a) monomers were narrowed to monoethylenically unsaturated, monocarboxylic acids, dicarboxylic acids and sulfonic acids and the group (b) were limited to hydrophobic, copolymerizable, monocyclic terpene hydrocarbons. Support for the three types of acids can clearly be found in the paragraph of page 7, lines 15-24 of the specification. This paragraph mentions each of the three types of acids and provides specific examples of each type. Further, the last paragraph on page 7 specifically mentions the monomer combinations of monocarboxylic acids (a1) and sulfonic

acids (a2). Note also that original Claim 4 of the application specifically mentions the combination of monoethylenically unsaturated, monocarboxylic acids and monoethylenically unsaturated sulfonic acids. Accordingly, the specification leaves no doubt that the inventors had full possession and understanding of an important aspect of the invention of employing a polymerizable combination of unsaturated monocarboxylic acids and/or dicarboxylic acids with unsaturated sulfonic acids. The rejection is believed overcome and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

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